

12
1908

BOROUGH OF PERTH



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1958



BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1958.

THE MAYOR OF PENRYN: Alderman E. L. Jenkin, J.P.

CHAIRMAN: Alderman F. Harris.

ALDERMEN.

S. Thomas; H. B. Jennings, C.C.

COUNCILLORS.

W. G. Beswetherick; J. Chinn; E. C. Gwyther; Mrs. F.M.Jennings;
H. D. S. Jewell; W. G. H. Kingdon, M.B.E.; J. Loughlin.
E. W. Medlin; J. F. C. Tregenza; F. M. Tallack; Mrs. B.N.Wilde;
E. F. Wilde, B.Sc., Hons. (Econ) F.R.G.S.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

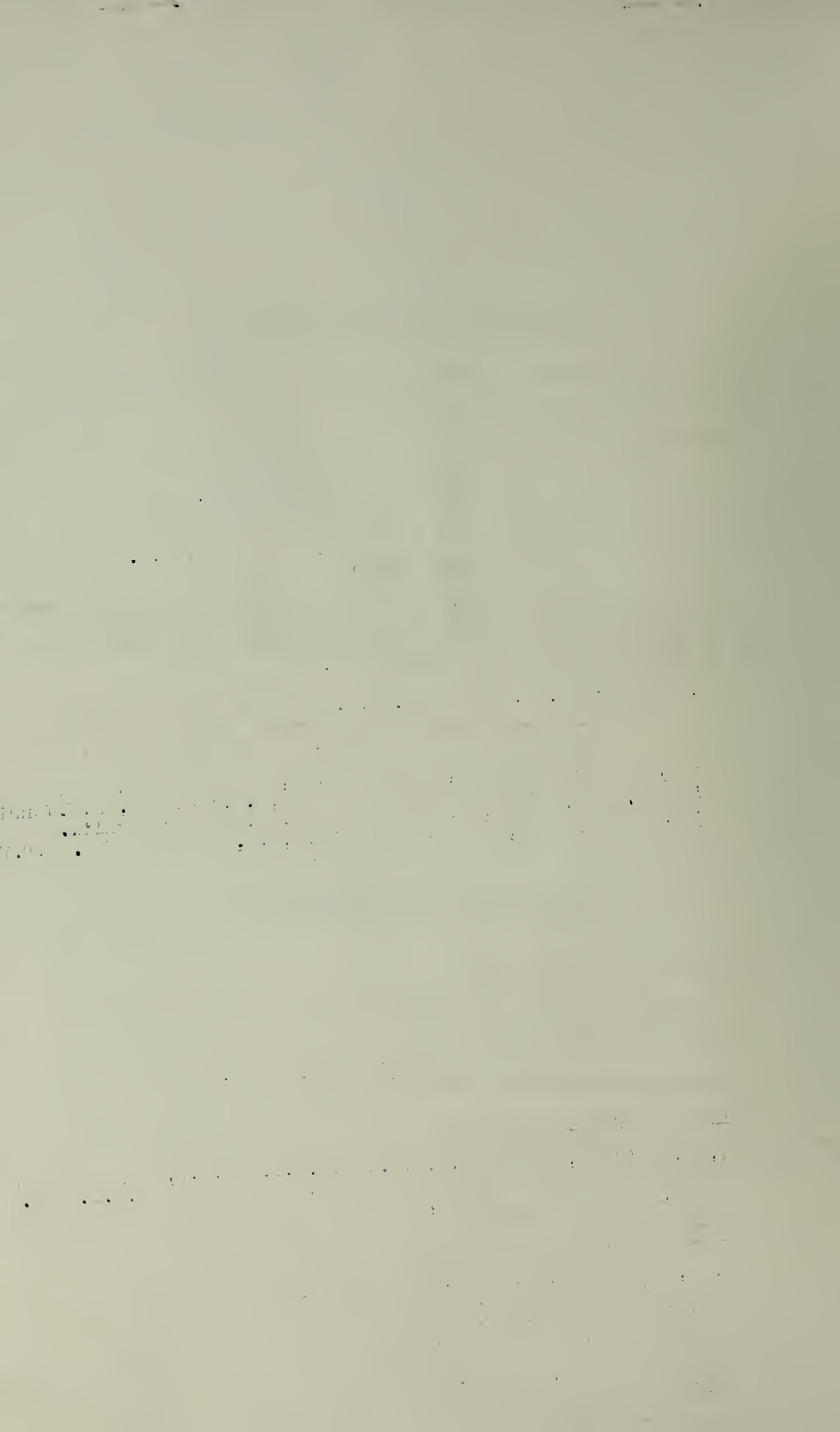
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

V. E. Whitman, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
Health Area Office, 6, Lemon Street,
TRURO. Tel: Truro 2202/3.

BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

K. R. Blackmore, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I.,
Resigned 31st October, 1958.
Municipal Offices, 15, Broad Street,
PENRYN. Tel: Penryn 2289.

CLERK: Miss B. George.



Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough of Penryn during 1958.

The year was a healthy one. Apart from 38 cases of measles there was no epidemic disease. The vital statistics are not as good as they might be. The stillbirth rate was very high for the second year in succession and the infant mortality rate which has been higher than the national average over the past six years was this year nearly twice the national rate.

The feature of the year, so far as I was concerned, was the vaccination of large numbers of children, and others against poliomyelitis. The net result of our work is that over 75% of the children under 15 years in Penryn have been protected against the disease by at least two doses of vaccine. This has entailed an enormous amount of work on the part of the local general medical practitioners as well as my own staff but I think that all concerned will agree it was well worth doing. A great deal more requires to be done and a lot of other things which have had to be neglected require catching up, diphtheria immunisation especially.

I am glad once more to have this opportunity of recording my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year. Mr. Blackmore, who was your Public Health Inspector during most of 1958 has gone to another post in which I am sure all will wish him well.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(signed) V. E. Whitman.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Except where otherwise stated the figures in brackets throughout the report are the comparable figures for 1957.

Area acres	721	
Population	4,330	(4,320)
Number of inhabited houses	1,449	(1,433)
Rateable Value	£38,030	(£37,795)
Product of penny rate	£146	(£147)
Number of houses built or under construction since 1945.	431	(415)
Number of families on waiting list for houses	142	(168)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

Males 36 (30) Females 36 (47) Total 72 (77)

Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor 0.95 (0.95)

Birth rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn 15.8 (16.9)

Birth rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales 16.4 (16.1)

Still Births.

Males 3 (3) Females 3 (0) Total 6 (3)

Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births, Penryn 76.9 (37.5)

Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births, England and Wales 21.6 (22.4)

Deaths.

Males 29 (29) Females 20 (21) Total 49 (50)

Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor 1.14 (1.14)

Death rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn 12.9 (13.2)

Death rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales 11.7 (11.5)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Males 3 (1) Females 0 (1) Total 3 (2)

Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births Penryn. 41.7 (26.0)

Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, England and Wales 22.6 (23.0)

Vital statistics since 1950.

The figures in brackets in this table are those for the U.K.

	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate.</u>	<u>Still Birth Rate.</u>
1950	19.1 (15.8)	11.6 (11.6)	NIL (29.6)	NIL (22.7)
1951	17.5 (15.5)	11.2 (12.5)	41.7 (29.7)	27.0 (23.0)

	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate.</u>	<u>Still Birth Rate.</u>
1952	19.5 (15.3)	10.1 (11.3)	24.7 (27.6)	14.0 (22.7)
1953	17.0 (15.5)	13.2 (11.4)	27.8 (26.8)	14.0 (22.5)
1954	19.9 (15.2)	11.4 (11.3)	56.1 (25.4)	21.2 (23.5)
1955	21.4 (15.0)	12.0 (11.7)	40.8 (24.9)	20.0 (23.2)
1956	16.9 (15.6)	12.7 (11.7)	25.6 (23.7)	12.7 (22.9)
1957	16.9 (16.1)	13.2 (11.5)	26.0 (23.1)	37.5 (22.5)
1958	15.8 (16.4)	12.9 (11.7)	41.7 (22.6)	76.9 (21.6)

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1	2	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	1	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	1	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	1	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	-	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	2	1	2	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	-	1	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	4	4	4	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	9	11	10	2
Coronary disease	3	5	3	11	9
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	3	-	1
Other heart disease	6	6	8	5	7
Other circulatory disease	6	2	4	2	3
Influenza	-	-	2	1	-
Pneumonia	-	3	1	-	-

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
Bronchitis	1	1	1	2	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	1	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	1	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	-	2	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	1	1	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	-	1	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	9	4	3	7
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-	-	1
All other accidents	-	1	-	1	1
Suicide	1	-	1	2	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>46</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>49</u>

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	Total
0+	3 (1)	- (1)	3 (2)
1 - 4	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5 - 14	- (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
15 - 24	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
25 - 44	1 (1)	1 (2)	2 (3)
45 - 64	9 (11)	3 (2)	12 (13)
65 - 74	9 (8)	3 (7)	12 (15)
75+	6 (8)	12 (9)	18 (17)
	<u>29 (29)</u>	<u>20 (21)</u>	<u>49 (50)</u>

PERINATAL MORTALITY, 1958

	<u>Population</u> <u>Mid 1958</u>	<u>Live</u> <u>Births</u>	<u>Still</u> <u>Births</u>	<u>Death with-</u> <u>in 7 days</u>	<u>Perinatal</u> <u>Mortality.</u>
Falmouth	16,570	243	3	2	20.3
Penryn	4,330	72	6	2	102.6
Truro City	13,520	170	5	2	40.0
Truro Rural	<u>26,590</u>	<u>377</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>33.5</u>
Health Area	61,010	862	25	8	37.2

Cornwall: Perinatal Mortality 1958, 36.8
England and Wales Perinatal Mortality, 1958, 35.1

2 of the infant deaths were due to birth injuries. The third died after an operation for an abdominal accident. These 3 deaths plus the very high stillbirth rate have raised the perinatal mortality rate to 3 times the national average. I have frequently pointed out that fluctuations are very likely to occur in the statistics of small communities but as will be seen from the table the Infant Mortality rate for Penryn has been higher than average, sometimes much higher, throughout the past six years.

of the 4 deaths in the 5 - 45 year groups 2 were due to motor accidents and 2 to cancer, one of these at the early age of 18 years.

In the 45 - 64 year group there were 12 deaths, 5 from cancer, 6 cardiac disease and 1 cerebro vascular condition.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.

1. Clinics

Infant Welfare Clinic

50 sessions were held at which there were 1291 (1137) attendances. The average was thus about 26 (22) per session.

Dental Clinic.

	<u>Expectant and Nursing Mothers</u>	<u>Pre-School Children</u>	<u>School Children</u>
Number inspected	7 (13)	17 (25)	1,338 (1,364)
Number requiring treatment	7 (12)	17 (25)	890 (963)
Number treated	7 (12)	17 (25)	226 (288)
Number attendances	37 (42)	31 (50)	359 (436)

2. Ambulance Service and Hospital Car Service.

These services are supplied by Falmouth.

3. Home Help Service

During the year 8 (7) maternity and 56 (57) other cases were given help in their own homes.

The calls on this service in Penryn continue to decline. This, in my opinion, is due entirely to the fact that the majority of those in need of help either cannot, or will not, pay the amounts assessed.

4. After-Care.

No grants for free extra nourishment were made during the year.

5. Nursing Midwifery and Health Visiting.

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
General Cases	57	151	297	153	130
Nursing Visits	1,001	1,066	3,801	3,626	3,619
Midwifery cases	72	80	57	58	51
Midwifery visits	1,467	1,672	1,157	1,268	1,031
Ante-Natal visits	443	555	477	584	529
Home visits to children under 5	2,861	3,491	2,925	2,743	3,102
Home visits to old persons	1,015	360	1,460	1,773	2,308

Miss E. J. Jennings, Assistant County Nursing Officer reports:

Chiropody. The Health Visitors and District Nurses find an ever growing need in Penryn for a Chiropody service for the elderly. Falmouth has such a service which gives much comfort. The need in Penryn is great.

Ante-Natal Relaxation Classes. Several expectant mothers have attended the small informal classes held weekly at the Falmouth Clinic. They appear to have both enjoyed and benefitted from the teaching given. During the past year the work of the Health Visitors and District Nurses has continued at much the same level.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

<u>Age Group.</u>	<u>Measles</u>		<u>Whooping Cough</u>		<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0+	1	4	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	4	2	1	1	-	-
3 - 4	5	6	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	11	5	-	-	1	1
10 - 14	-	-	-	1	-	-
	21	17	1	2	1	1
	<u>38</u>		<u>3</u>		<u>2</u>	

Other than 38 mild cases of measles there was no epidemic disease in the borough. Over the past few years the incidence of infectious jaundice in schools has been rather troublesome. The school which was previously the worst affected remained clear during 1958 and this is attributed by the headmaster to the adoption of the use of

paper towels and the installation of a drinking fountain in the playground. In the infants school, which has so many defects (all reported on in detail) that I consider it should not be used as a school, there were 17 cases during the year while there were six at the Penryn County Secondary school and 2 at the County Primary school.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

By the end of 1958, 847 persons had received at least 2 doses of poliomyelitis vaccine and of these 8 had 3 doses. Details are as follows:

<u>Children under 15.</u>		<u>15 - 25.</u>	<u>Expectant Mothers.</u>	<u>Others.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>2 doses</u>	<u>3 doses.</u>	<u>2 doses</u>			
787	8	14	21	17	847

No case of the disease was notified during the year.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 40 (43) children under five were immunised against Diphtheria and 117 (26) booster doses were given.

On the 31st December, the estimated number of children between the ages of 1 year and 5 years in Penryn was 308 (310) of those 181 (221) or 58.8% (71.3%) had been immunised.

So much emphasis was laid on vaccination against Poliomyelitis during the year that this fall was not unexpected. It is to be hoped, however, that we shall soon have protection rates against both diseases of at least 75%.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

	<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1 - 4.</u>	<u>5 - 14.</u>	<u>15+.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number vaccinated	4	8	3	3	18
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	1	7	8

TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>Age Group.</u>	<u>New Cases</u>	
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Under 15	2	-
15 - 44	1	-
45 - 64	1	-
65 and over	2	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>

On the 31st December, there were 44 (48) respiratory and 11 (11) non-respiratory cases on the register.

Rate per 1,000 population, Penryn 12.7 (13.7)

Rate per 1,000 population, Cornwall 7.4 (7.4)

Up to 31st December, 287 (229) children 86 (62) of them contacts with cases of tuberculosis, had received B.C.G. vaccination. 201 (167) were dealt with under the scheme for school leavers.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit Penryn during 1958, but 170 Penryn school children were examined by the Mass Radiography Unit in Falmouth. No significant cases were discovered.

BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR
ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

WATER SUPPLY.

The Falmouth Corporation Waterworks have maintained an adequate supply of wholesome water to the Borough during the year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The completion of the new sewerage scheme in 1957, has proved to be a great asset to the Borough health facilities, and the ejector station has maintained the progress experienced at the commencement of the scheme.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The weekly collection of refuse has continued satisfactorily during the year, and since the route for collection was revised, congestion in the main streets has lessened considerably. The number of loads of combined refuse and salvage collected during the year were 1,056 as against 932 for the previous year.

The refuse disposal site at Bissom has continued to operate satisfactorily, and as previously reported the regular covering with soil has, once again, eliminated the fly problem.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The four Public Conveniences previously reported upon, have been satisfactorily maintained during the year.

FOOD.

(a) Slaughterhouse. The one licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough has not been used during the year.

(b) Other Food Stuffs. During the year the following items of food have been condemned unfit for human consumption, all of which were voluntarily surrendered by the owners.

Canned Foods.

Corned Beef	66 lbs.
Peaches	20 lbs.
Oranges	3 lbs.
Peas	3 lbs.

(c) Food Premises.

The 64 food premises, with the exception of one butchers' shop, mentioned in previous reports and scheduled below, have continued to function during the year, and periodic visits have been made to them all.

The storage of food and general exhibition for sale has steadily improved during the year, and some of the family grocers have now installed refrigerated storage facilities.

Ice cream samples were taken in the Borough and submitted to the County Public Health Laboratory, and each of the samples were placed in the Provisional Grade I.

(i) Schedule of Food Premises.

General Provisions, including open foods.	20 (10 selling ice cream)
Bakehouses	3
Bakers and Confectioners (retail)	4 (1 selling ice cream, 2 with cafes)
Sweetshops	7
Dairy	1 (selling ice cream)
Fish & Chips	5 (one selling ice cream)
Greengrocers	5 (one selling ice cream)
Licensed Premises	9 (one serving meals)
Fish (Retail & Wholesale)	1
Wholesale Dairies	2 (Pasteurised & T.T.milk)
Butchers	5
Wholesale food supplier	1

(ii) Registered Food Premises.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
Ice Cream (packed only)	14	23
Fish & Chip	5	15
Butchers	5	10

(iii) Condemned food is disposed of by burying on the Council's refuse disposal site.

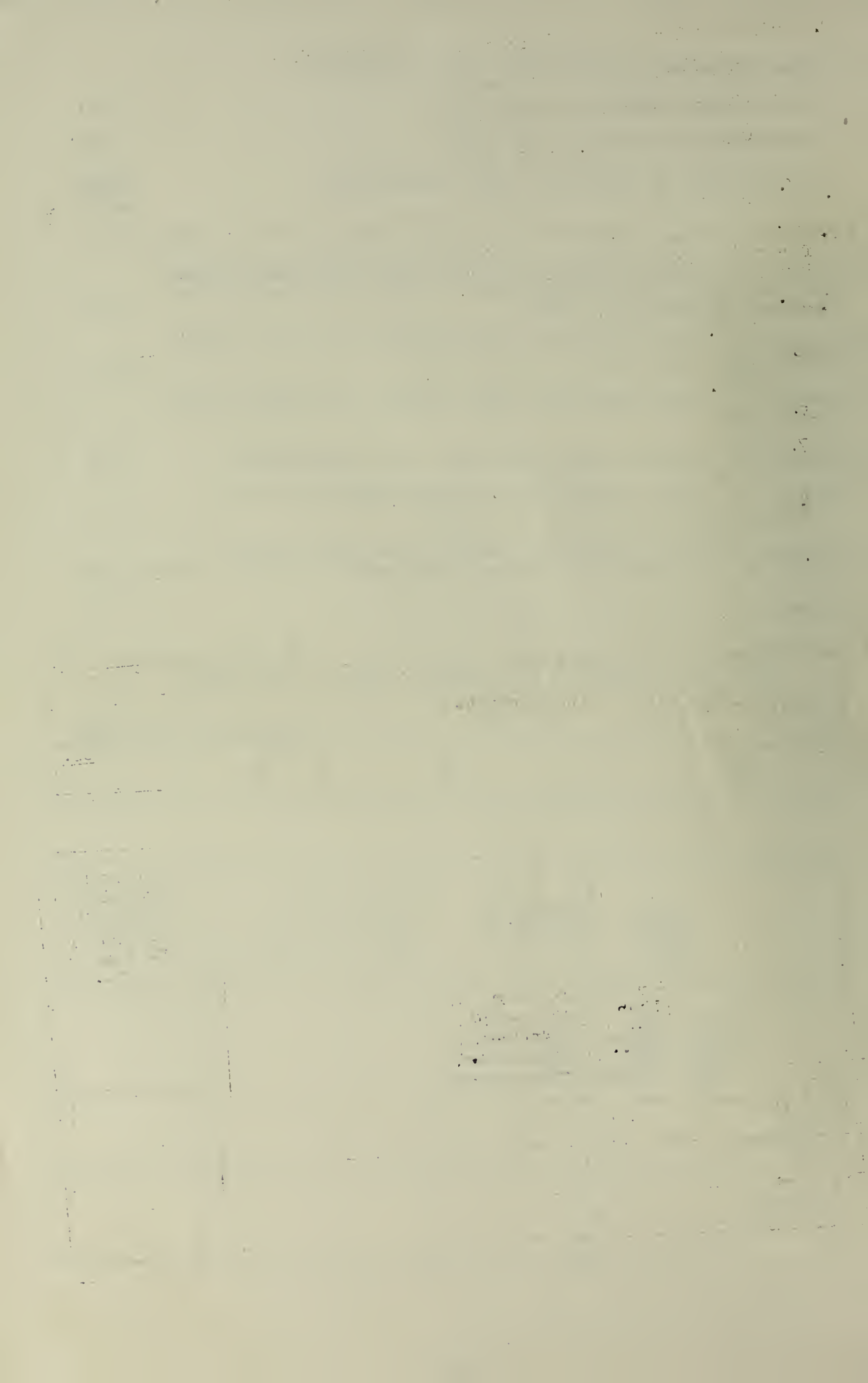
HOUSING.

Total number of permanent dwellings in District	1,419
Total number of permanent dwellings own by Local Authority	517
Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation (As per Ministry Circular 55/54)	104

1. Number of houses in Clearance Areas for which -
 - (a) Clearance Orders have been made 10
 - (b) Compulsory Purchase Order made NIL
 - (c) Purchased by agreement (under negotiation) NIL
10
2. Number of houses included in Clearance Areas still to be made 68
3. Number of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, NIL
4. Number of houses demolished under Section 40 of the Housing Act, 1957. 13
5. Number of houses demolished under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957. 1
6. Number of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished NIL
7. Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. 91
8. Number of houses closed as a result of an under-taking given by the owners of, following the issue of Closing Orders. NIL
9. Number of unfit houses occupied under licence NIL

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1954 to 31st December, 1958.		Housing Programme for 1959.	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise.	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes.
278	56	42	-

Houses erected during year.		Houses in course of erection.		Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings.	Lost from conversion of two or more houses to one.
For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes.	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes.		
Local Authority	7 11	- 1		2	1
Private Enterprise	- 3	- 2		-	-



a. No of temporary housing units occupied	NIL
b. No. of houses found overcrowded	NIL
c. No. of houses made fit during year	NIL
d. No. of inspections made during year	77
e. No. of Informal Notices served	19
f. No. of Informal Notices complied with	16
g. No. of Statutory Notices served	1
h. No. of Statutory Notices complied with	1

HOUSES REQUIRED:-

1. To replace houses scheduled for demolition	80
2. To abate overcrowding	2
3. For other purposes	NIL
Total No. of applications for Council houses at end of year.	142
Total No. of Council Houses sold during year	NIL

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.
No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority NIL

MILK DISTRIBUTORS.

The six Registered Retailers have continued to supply bottled pasteurised milk to the Borough.

RODENT CONTROL.

1. No major infestation has been discovered during the systematic treatment of the premises in the Borough, therefore no Statutory action has been necessary.
2. The Sewers have been treated twice during the year, and the man-holes in which 'takes' have been recorded were 12 against 11 in the previous year.
3. The controlled refuse disposal site at Bissom has been regularly inspected and the two treatments during the year has kept the whole area free from rats.

The analysis of the year's work is as follows:-

Number of visits. 2,316

PREMISES TREATED.

Dwellings and gardens.	211
Refuse Disposal Site	2
Business Premises	3
Corporation Property	9
River Banks	25

FACTORIES & WORKSHOP ACTS.

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	30	14	3

<u>DEFECTS.</u>		
Particulars	Found	Remedied
Defective Sanitary Accommodation	3	3

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

K. R. Blackmore,
Borough Sanitary Inspector.

